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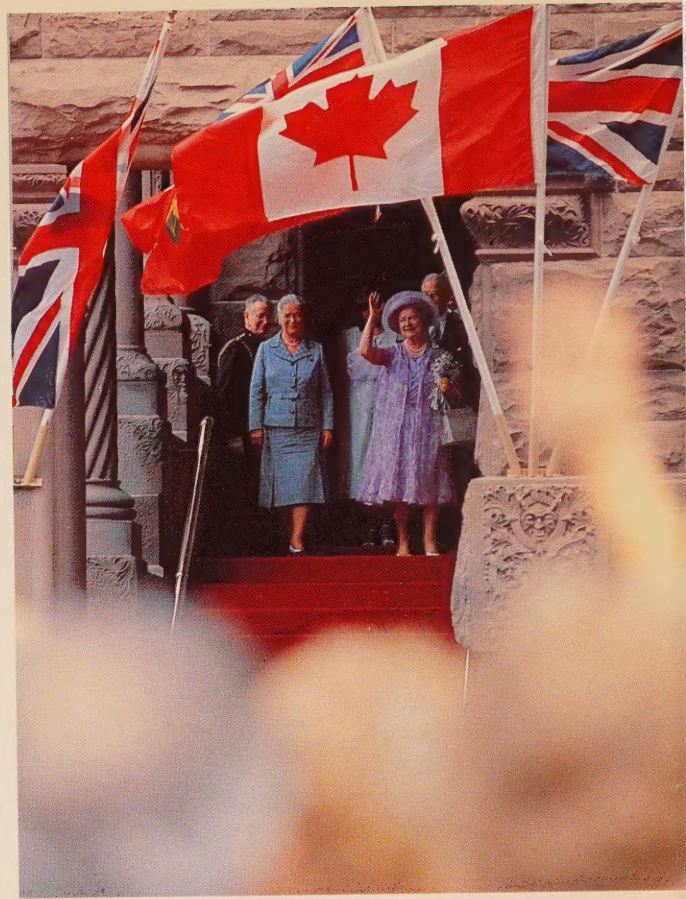
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Queen's Park





Queen's Park is a people place. Every year Ontario welcomes many guests to the 1893 sandstone building, and the visit of the Queen Mother was a particularly happy occasion. But, as the fold-out photograph shows, it takes a host of people (some 500 of them) to make the Legislative Assembly work. A bird's eye view of the people who run Queen's Park was taken on a glorious day in June.

Inside Queen's Park

Toronto journalist Frank Jones finds reforms and change bringing a quickening pace to Ontario's legislature.

Fourteen-year-old Pat Lynett, a fresh-faced youngster from Wawa in northern Ontario, ran up the steps of the Legislative Building with his school mates, past the green and red uniformed ceremonial guard and the tall bevelled glass doors, and then stood staring.

I stood behind Pat straining to see the view that greets some 60,000 school children who tour Queen's Park every year.

And what a sight. Rich red carpets, chandeliers and a staircase so grand you expect the Lieutenant-Governor at the very least to come gliding down at any moment.

To Pat and his pals, who had been 12 hours on a bus coming from Wawa the day before, it was perhaps the grandest building they had ever seen – a magnificent tribute to Ontario's past.

But, standing there behind him, there was so much I would have liked to tell Pat about this building – about its history and strange quirks, and most of all about its vitality and the daily fire and fury that has such an impact on all our lives.

I learned all this during hours of exploring the building, from the locksmith shop in the basement to the topmost attic fifty feet above the Chamber of the House among huge rafters which resemble the innards of a sailing ship. I learned it talking to everyone from the shoe-shine man, whose eyes still light up at the memory of a kind word from Premier Leslie Frost 20 years ago, to Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGib-

bon relaxing in her private drawing room in the Vice-Regal suite.

Like Pat, I had come here virtually as a stranger. Queen's Park had always seemed a slightly remote, dusty pink building hiding from Toronto in its island of green at the top of University Avenue. I recalled an earlier description of it by historian Desmond Morton: "A huge red toad squinting through the trees."

Some years ago I left Toronto to write about governments in Ottawa, in London, Paris, and Moscow, and when I came back there was the Legislative Building – still squinting through the trees. So perhaps it was time I got to know her better.

I started out way down University Avenue enjoying the same view that greeted Premier Sir Oliver Mowat, clutching his topper in a fierce windstorm, as he rode up the avenue to open the ornate palace in 1893.

The provincial government was moving house from relatively modest quarters on Front Street to the great sandstone spread in this park that had been dedicated by the Prince of Wales in 1860. "Well, Charlie," Sir Oliver remarked to the Clerk, "We built it but we'll never fill it in a 100 years."

Little did Sir Oliver realize that Ontario's 1893 population of 2 million would burgeon to its estimated present-day figure of 8½ million, that the Ontario budget would grow to a whopping \$15 billion dollars (rivalling that of New York State and California), and



Why is it called Queen's Park?

In 1850 the University of Toronto leased the park to the City of Toronto for 999 years with the provision that a site would be reserved in it for the provincial government. The park was dedicated to his

mother, Queen Victoria, by the Prince of Wales, during a visit to Toronto in 1860, and park and parliament buildings have always been known for that reason as 'Queen's Park.'

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that Ontario Government ministries would occupy several new buildings east of Queen's Park. But it's all still managed from those high-windowed old offices and that wedding cake Chamber in Queen's Park.

Like many things connected with government, the Legislative Building was only built after a lot of fuss and argument. An international competition was held in 1880 to select a design; but later these designs were judged unsuitable, and one of the competition judges, (an architect from England named R. A. Waite, who lived in Buffalo), got the job himself. That, you can bet, put the noses of a lot of Canadian architects out of joint.

What Mr. Waite gave us is a building full of vanities better suited, some would think, to the needs of a fairy princess than workaday politicians. There's a mystery room in the east tower with balconies and great views and no purpose – except perhaps for some Rapunzel to let down her hair. That round window in the west tower was for a clock that was never installed. And there are magnificent gothic archways, extravagant

chimneys, and carved faces that stare out at Queen's Park from the most unlikely places.

But it's what happens here today that makes Queen's Park far more than a museum or a monument. I think I can best explain this by describing a symbolic event that occurs nearly every afternoon at two o'clock; first the halls are filled with the sound of bells ringing to call members to the Chamber – the touring school groups become strangely quiet – blue-uniformed Ontario Government Protective Service officers (who, in tribute to our peaceful ways, carry no guns) snap to attention – a door in the ground floor hallway is thrown open, and Patrolman John Gow bellows in best British paradeground style: "Quiet please! Mr. Speaker."

The Sergeant-at-Arms leads the way carrying the glittering mace (once a knobbly stick used to keep order), followed by the Speaker, Jack Stokes, in black robe and tricorn hat, the Clerk, First Assistant Clerk and House Attendants. The little ceremony has a timeless quality as the procession winds up the stairs past the mellow portraits of old-time premiers.

Our Parliamentary Tradition

In Ontario, as in the rest of Canada, government is based on the British parliamentary tradition, one of the oldest systems of government in the world. Its origins go back to the assemblies of wise men held in the time of the Anglo-Saxon kings, but the first landmark was the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 by King John. That document, signed beside the River Thames, established the principle that the king cannot overrule the law.

The centuries since have seen a constant tug-of-war between monarchs and the people's representatives, and it is that conflict which gave rise to our present system of carefully balanced rights and jealously guarded privileges.

The Queen (represented in Ontario by the Lieutenant-Governor) is still the official head of state, but power resides with the Premier (Chief Minister) and the Executive Council (elected members who represent the majority party in the House and who are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the recommendation of the Premier as Ministers of the Crown).

The powers of the Provincial Government are set out in Canada's constitution – the British North America Act of 1867 – and include the power to levy direct taxes, borrow on the provincial credit, hold or dispose of crown land, administer justice, regulate municipalities, protect property and civil rights, maintain hospitals and prisons and make laws and regulations respecting education.

The House

The Chamber of the Legislative Assembly is referred to as the 'House.' Here, one hundred and twenty-five elected representatives or 'Members' meet to thrash out Ontario's laws. The Government Party (Progressive Conservative) is seated to the right of the Speaker. Facing them is the Official Opposition (Liberal Party) and the New Democratic Party (NDP). When the House meets it is 'in Session' and sessions normally take place during the Fall and Spring months. The Clerk's table is located directly in front of the Speaker. Four galleries overlook the Chamber; the Speaker's gallery above the entrance to the House, two Visitors' Galleries on either side of the House and the Press Gallery directly above the Speaker's chair.

The Throne Speech

Pomp and pageantry surrounds the opening of each new Session of the Legislature. The Lieutenant-Governor, in a horse drawn landau and flanked by the Governor-General's Horse Guard, leads the ceremonial procession to the front steps of the Legislative Building. Her Honour enters the House, takes her place on the Speaker's dias, and proceeds to read the Speech from the Throne. This speech reviews the record of the Government, and informs the public of the Government's policies and intentions for the coming Session.



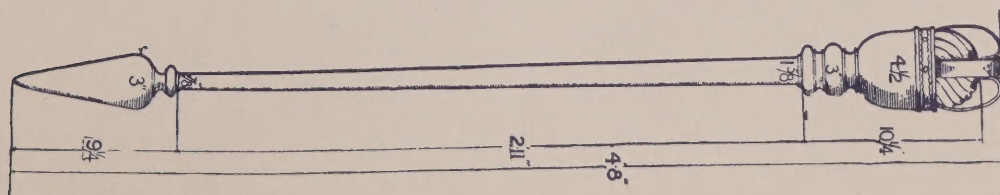
Sergeant-At-Arms

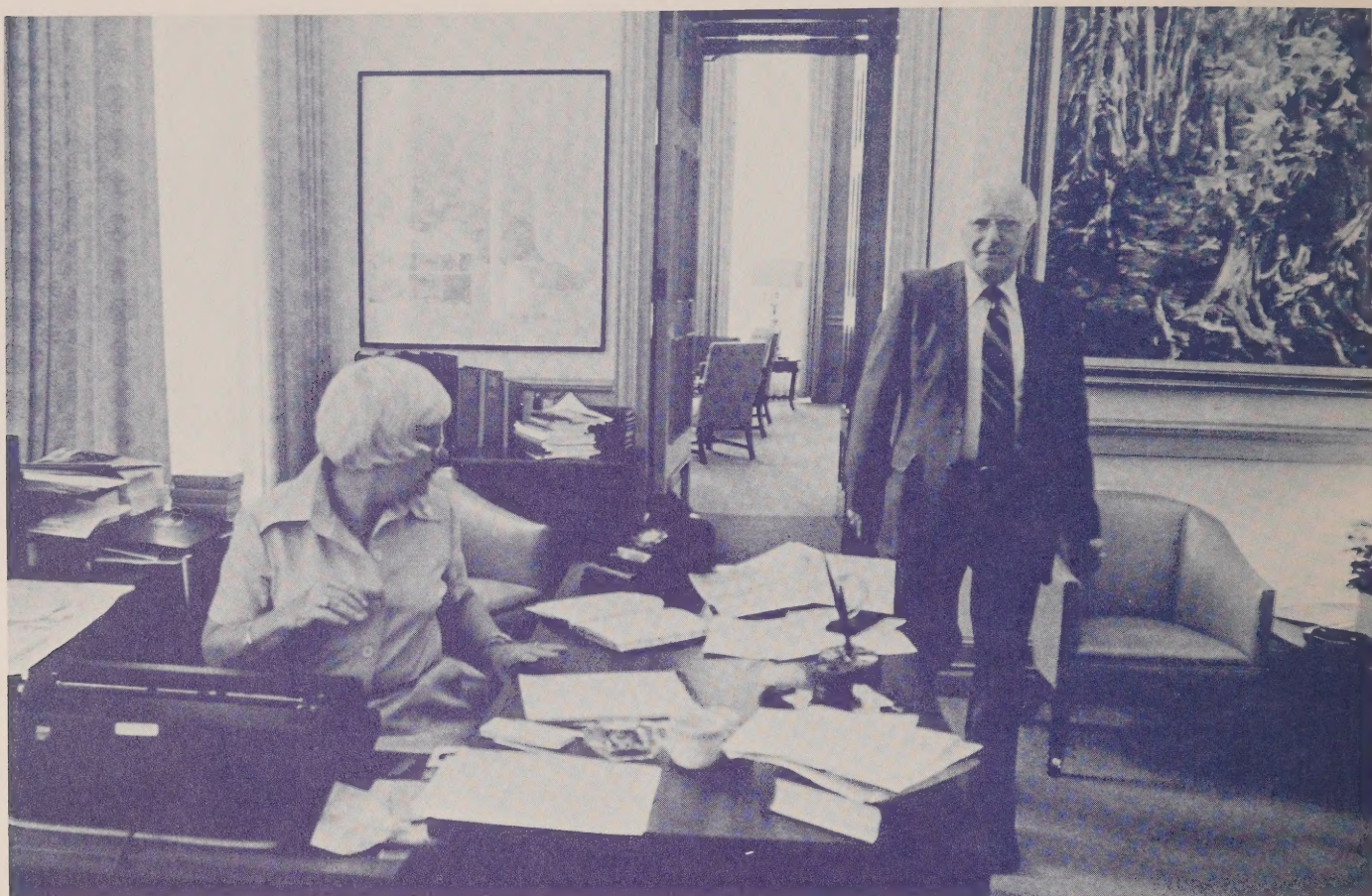
The Sergeant-At-Arms, carrying the Mace on his shoulder, precedes the Speaker in the daily procession from the Speaker's office to the Chamber. He sits at the Bar of the House throughout parliamentary debates and, under the ultimate authority of the Speaker, acts as the ceremonial 'policeman.' He also oversees housekeeping requirements in the Chamber.

The Mace

Originally the mace was a medieval weapon, a club wielded in battle by clerics who were not allowed to wear swords. Later it became the symbol of the power of the Speaker in the British Parliament.

Ontario's original mace, dating back to 1792, was taken away by the Americans in the raid of 1813 and was only returned in 1934 on the instructions of President Roosevelt and Congress. The original one now rests in the hallway outside the Chamber, while a showier one rests on the Clerk's table when the House is in session.





Mr. Speaker

The Speaker, who is selected from among the Members of the House, presides at sittings and is responsible for maintaining order as well as ruling on any matters of dispute which may arise. His robe and tricorn hat bespeak the ancient origins of the post, which goes back in the British parliamentary system to at least 1376. The original function of the Speaker was to 'speak' to the King and his advisers, presenting petitions and claims of the Members.

Members can only address 'Mr. Speaker' in the House and not another Member, in tribute to the Speaker's authority, but the Speaker can neither take part in a debate nor vote except to break a tie.

Beyond his duties in the chair, the Speaker is responsible today for all aspects of the operation of the Legislative Assembly. As chairman of the Board of Internal Economy he oversees expenditures of Assembly funds, the allowances and services provided to Members (including office accommodation and staff), the provision of Hansard, the printing of official documents of the House, and even controls dining room and food services and the provision of guides at Queen's Park.



And what's more Queen's Park is seething with change. Reforms in recent years have given Members new powers, new prestige and new tools to do their jobs — and just as well, because the provincial parliament has become the focus of some of the hottest issues of our times. It has become very much a place of the people; and with increasing frequency you'll see citizens trooping up to the grand old building to testify

The Caucuses

Members of a particular party in the Legislature belong to that party's caucus. The Government Caucus includes both back-benchers and Cabinet Members, who meet to establish a consensus of opinion on each issue before Government legislation dealing with the issue is introduced in the House. After a bill has received First Reading, the Opposition Caucuses discuss it's ramifications and arrive at their parties' positions on the proposed new law.

at committee hearings, or to demonstrate on the lawns about issues like nuclear power, acid rain, hospital conditions, rent control and family law.

So when you see the Government (on the Speaker's right) and the Opposition (on his left) squaring off like a couple of football squads every afternoon, you have to realize you're seeing the very heart, the hot spot of the Ontario political system.

Of course, when Members start heckling each other or banging their desk tops (which the Queen's Park carpenter Olev Nurmberg occasionally has to repair when Members become too violent) it can seem more like a street brawl. Said Donald MacDonald, the veteran NDP member who teaches political science at York University, "I tell school groups it's a serious game. There are three parties each with their own positions trying to get across their views. It's bound to be noisy."

Speaker Stokes, a one-time CPR train conductor and long-time union official, has the difficult job of



overseeing these sometimes unruly affairs and gauging the exact moment to cool things down with a cry of "Order!"

When I spoke to the Speaker in his high-ceilinged office on the east side of the front door I found a man who is very serious about the purpose of parliament. "I think our country and our province has succeeded because of our parliamentary system," he said.

"It's not perfect, but it's far ahead of anything else. Parliamentary democracy is a very fragile thing. You've only got to look around the world to see how easily it can be overthrown. People say that couldn't happen here." There was a sudden flash of the fierceness that can silence a Member in full cry as the Speaker declared: "Well, by God, we've got to see it doesn't happen here!"

What that system amounts to is that if you or I take it into our heads to run for office, given some hard work, a bit of luck and the approval of the voters, nothing should stop us.

People working at Queen's Park today still remember the day, 30 years ago, when Premier T.L. Kennedy introduced around a young lad the same age as our Pat Lynett and predicted, "He's going to be the prime minister of Ontario some day."

Whether fired up by that prediction or just naturally interested in politics, the young lad sought his future in politics and today William Grenville Davis, the boyish-faced man sitting on the Government front bench, is Premier of the province.

"That's what is special about our country and our parliamentary system," Davis said, puffing on his pipe in his quiet corner office, where a chiming clock marks off the hours. "Young people can still achieve what they set their minds to. I suppose that this building was where I always wanted to be. I still have a strong feeling, when I walk into the House, of the great tradition we're all part of and have a responsibility to maintain."

The tradition may seem timeless, but the job of the Member of the Legislature has changed radically.

The Budget

The Budget Speech of the Provincial Treasurer, delivered usually in March, is one of the most important events of the Legislature's year because in it he sets out the Government plans for raising funds in the coming year and how it proposes to spend them. The budget is made up of the estimates of individual departments, and examination of the estimates gives members a chance to go over the operations of the Government in detail.





The Premier and the Cabinet

The Premier (the leader of the majority party in the House) and the Ministers – each of whom usually is responsible for a department of the Government – form the Cabinet. It is the Cabinet which sets Government policy and decides what legislation should be introduced into the House.

At present, the Cabinet consists of the Premier and twenty-five Ministers most of whom head operating Ministries of Government. Management Board of Cabinet is the financial control mechanism of the Government. The Policy and Priorities Board of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees for Legislation, Justice, Social Development and Confederation are comprised of selected Cabinet Ministers who formulate the policy which legislation is based on.

The Cabinet, as a group, comprise the membership of the Executive Council which is responsible for giving formal advice to the Lieutenant-Governor.



"When I was first elected in 1954," said James Auld, cabinet veteran and the longest continually-sitting Member, "it used to be a part-time job. I used to come to Toronto about once a month most of the year. Today there's an awful lot more government to keep control of. Everything's more complicated now. It's a full-time job and then some."

Keeping on top of what's happening, in fact, can be an around-the-clock job for many Members. Margaret Campbell, a Liberal Member from Toronto, told me her day often begins when constituents and reporters start phoning her at home at around 7 a.m., and only ends when she heads home after the House adjourns at 10:30 p.m.

The typical Member's day is taken up with reading and answering a steady flood of mail, rushing to committee meetings morning and afternoon while trying to fit in appointments to see people, getting to Question Period in the afternoon, and taking part in debates in the House. And that doesn't even begin to take into account the functions, many of them at the weekend, which Members are called on to attend.

The main purpose of all this activity is to keep in touch with the feelings of constituents on key matters, to keep the Government and bureaucracy on their toes, and to ensure that reasonable laws, in tune with changing times and needs, are passed by the Legislature. It's certainly not a job for a slacker!

The Yellow Light

Times change, and what seemed a reasonable law yesterday may seem a down right injustice today. Ontario's legislators often have to work late to keep up with the changes – but when they do they let the populace know by burning a yellow light in the tower at the front of the building, indicating a late sitting of the House.

Question Period

Of comparatively recent origin, Question Period is the hour allotted at the start of each day's session during which MPPs can question ministers about pressing matters of the day. Question period usually draws a large turnout of Members and, because of the timeliness of the matter and the format used, frequently produces the brightest verbal fireworks of the day.

How a bill becomes law

Law-making is one of the most important duties of the Legislature, and because laws must be just and yet answer the needs of a changing society, the law-making process is a long and complicated one. A law starts out as an idea – conceived perhaps by the Government or by citizens who make representations to the Government. The idea is translated into appropriate legal language by civil servants and legislative counsel, and is examined by Cabinet committees before being presented to a full meeting of the Cabinet.

If Cabinet approves it, the bill, as it is now called, goes before a meeting of the Government Caucus which consists of all the Government Members of the Legislature. Finally the bill reaches the Legislature where it is given First Reading. The minister responsible reads out the title of the bill and usually makes a brief statement about its purpose. There is no debate at this stage.

Second Reading usually takes place a few days later when the bill appears on the Order Paper. The Member proposing it moves the bill, and the Speaker puts the question, 'shall the bill be read a second time?' A voice vote usually suffices, but if there is strong opposition a recorded vote is called for, the division bells summon Members, and a standing vote is taken.

If the bill clears that hurdle the Speaker asks the House if the bill shall be ordered for Third Reading. If any voice dissents, the bill is sent for study by either a Standing Committee or the Committee of the Whole House (the House sitting in Committee in the Chamber).

Clause by clause study follows and amendments can be made to the bill, although its basic purpose cannot be changed. The Standing Committee – one of the committees appointed to study legislation pertaining to particular policy areas – can call witnesses and listen to representations from members of the public. When its job is done, the bill is usually ready for Third Reading or it may be sent to the Committee of the Whole House.

The motion for the Third Reading is customarily carried without debate, although a short statement of any opposition is permitted. When the motion for Third Reading is passed, the bill is read the third and last time by the Clerk, and Mr. Speaker indicates it has been passed by the House.

The final step is the ceremonial signing of the bill into law by the Queen's representative, the Lieutenant-Governor, which usually takes place either in the Chamber or in the Lieutenant-Governor's suite with representatives of the House in attendance.

Island of greenery ...

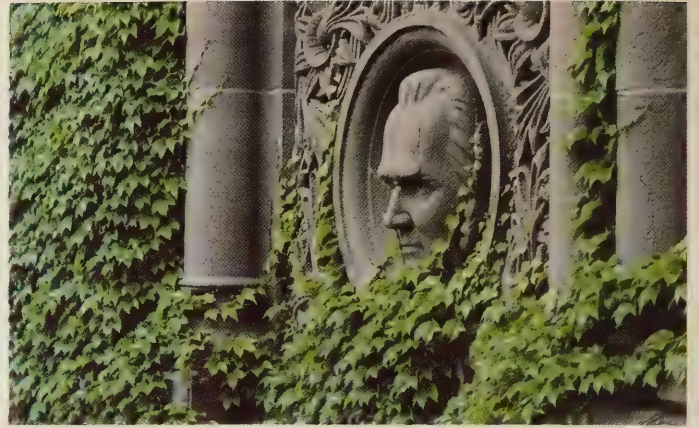


Victorian dignity, in the form of a frock-coated John Sandfield Macdonald – who in 1867 became Ontario's first premier – meets the modern-day informality of some of the thousands of children who annually visit Queen's Park.

What they find is an island of greenery, spreading trees and ivyed walls, set in the hustle and bustle of Canada's largest city.



Gargoyles and Guards

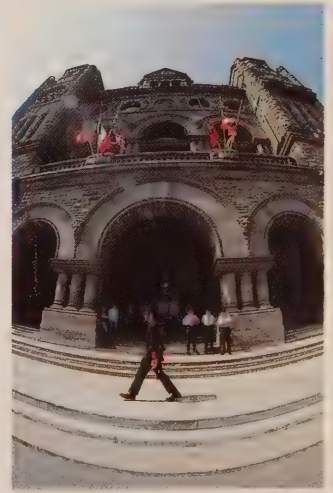




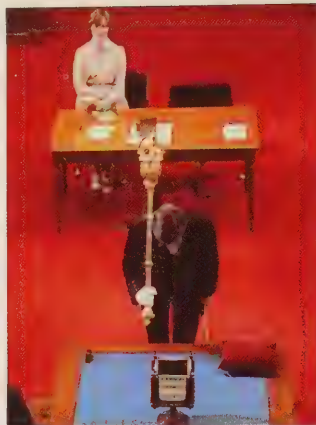
Wearing the uniforms of Canada's oldest regiment, their 1853 pattern Snider Enfield rifles gleaming, the guards have so much spit 'n' polish visitors ask, 'Are they statues or for real?'



(Top left) An audience of stone – some of them the faces of 19th century public figures, and some the gargoyle fancies of the stonemasons – looks out on the park.



The heart of it all...



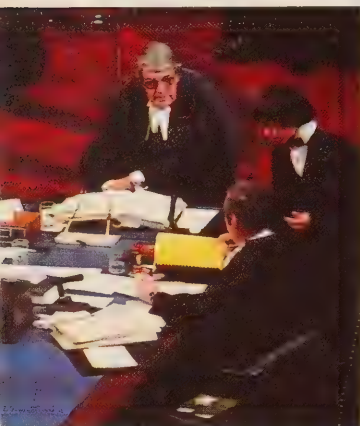
Pomp and circumstance – the Speaker's daily procession to the Chamber, and the placing of the mace on the table to indicate the House is in session – symbolize the freedom and powers Parliament fought hard to acquire. First time visitors to Question Period are often surprised at the wrangling between politicians in the House, the heckling and desk thumping. The democratic process at times tends to be a noisy, bruising affair.





The cut and thrust in the House

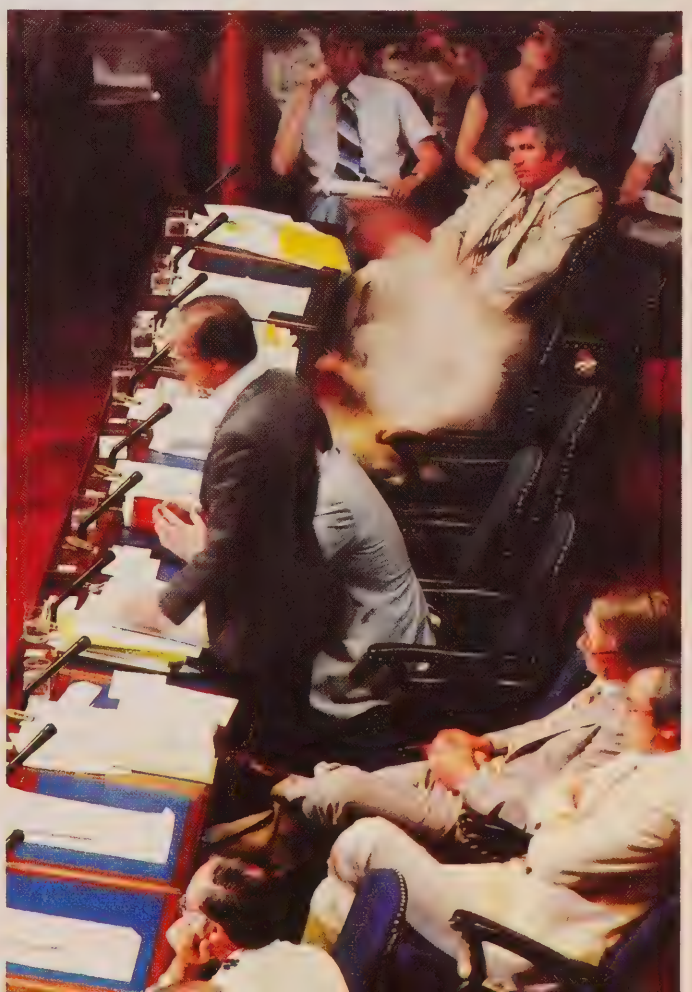
The most tortuous job in the House is that of the Speaker. Despite his apparent quiet musing, he must judge the exact moment to step in to prevent arguments developing into chaos. The function of the Speaker – here the Hon. John E. Stokes – goes back more than 600 years in the British House of Commons. He's called the 'speaker' because he acts as spokesman for the House in presenting bills and petitions to the Queen or her representative.



Also helping to preserve order in the House is the Clerk – here Roderick Lewis, Q.C. whose father held the job before him. He acts as the parliamentary solicitor advising the Speaker and the Members on procedures as well as keeping the official records.

The floor of the House can seem as familiar as home to a long-time Member sharing a joke with colleagues, or it can seem like a lion's den to a new Member venturing on his or her maiden speech. Only one thing is certain: no one ever knows what's going to happen and that's what gives the parliamentary process a lot of its excitement.





The action back stage



Some of the everyday tasks which sustain the Parliamentary process.

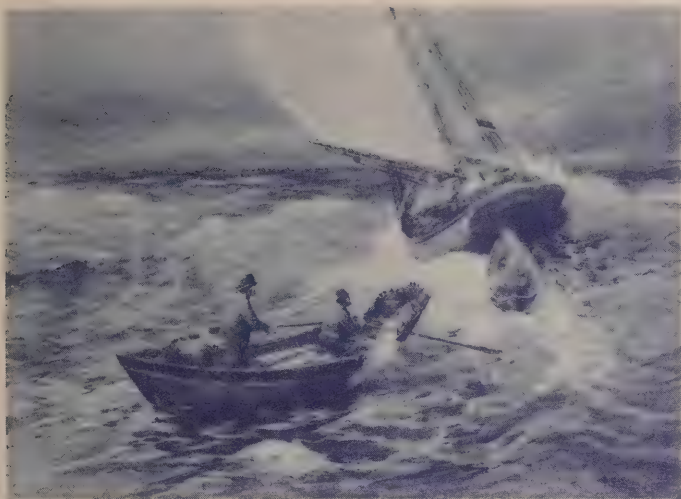




Nuts and bolts politics

Behind the curtains on each side of the Chamber which guard the lobbies, and at lengthy sessions in Committee rooms like the newly-built Amethyst Room, much of the detail of Ontario's laws are shaped.





Robert Ford Gagen, R.C.A., O.S.A. (1847-1926)
Deep Sea Fishers, 1902. Water colour on paper.

The Province's Art Collection

All Ontario – from bleak northern rockscapes to friendly domestic ploughman – has been brought within Queen's Park's sandstone walls through the Ontario Collection. How this large collection of art found its way there is a detective story in itself.

The paintings were mostly acquired by far-sighted administrators between 1855 and 1914 and trace the history of Canadian art from early pioneers, through the 19th century artists who imitated the French and English masters, to the first strivings towards a truly Canadian style.

Most of the pictures, apart from the official portraits which adorned government buildings, were housed in the Education Museum of the Toronto Normal School (a teachers' college), but when that gallery was closed in 1912 the paintings were dispersed to teachers' colleges around the province and largely forgotten.

Unfortunately, few paintings were bought in the years that followed and the next major acquisition came in 1944 when the artist George Agnew Reid left the province 459 of his works, including a large collection of his charming small landscape studies.

In 1977, when the province began re-assembling this priceless collection, many of the paintings had disappeared. But keen detective work turned up some of them in such unlikely spots as school boiler rooms and attics, many of them in sad state of repair.

Restoration work has gone ahead at full speed, and now the rich results are on display on the walls of the Legislative Buildings: canvasses that give us an intimate view of Ontario domestic life and landscapes, as well as paintings that demonstrate the grandiose aspirations of some of our 19th century artists.



George A. Reid, R.C.A., O.P.S.A. (1860-1947)
Montreal River. Oil on canvas.



Charles William Jefferys, A.R.C.A., O.S.A., R.C.A. (1869-1951)
Loyalists Drawing Lots for the Land. Watercolour on paper.

The operation and administration of the Legislature itself has been streamlined in recent years. A three-man commission headed by Dalton Camp overhauled the workings of the Legislature beginning in 1972.

As a result of their reports, says James Auld, "Members now have much more power and control over their own facilities, and the services which enable them to respond to the needs of their constituents have been greatly enhanced."

Instead of the Queen's Park facilities being run by the Government, they now come under a Board of Internal Economy headed by the Speaker. Members, who once had to fight for the services of a few secretaries in the typing pool, now each have a secretary/assistant, as well as having an assembly-financed constituency office in their ridings to look after affairs at home.

Each of the parties receive funds for research operations, some of them highly computerized, and in addition the parliamentary library now has non-partisan research staff to help provide Members with in-depth background papers on almost any subject.

"Slowly," said Donald MacDonald, "We Members are exercising increasing control over this institution." MacDonald, as chairman of the committee examining Ontario Hydro's affairs and thus the future of nuclear energy in Ontario, is particularly pleased that

the committee system is giving Members new opportunities to conduct wide-ranging investigations into important issues.

The new challenges and opportunities facing Members can be a little daunting to the new Member who might, in any case, feel a little over-awed at the surroundings.

Evelyn Gigantes, a New Democratic Member from Ottawa, recalled that as she walked towards Queen's Park after being elected in 1975, "I had a great shock. I thought about my mother, who is dead, and wondered 'What would she say if she could see me now?'"

Since then she hasn't found much time for personal considerations. "You feel an enormous desperation that there aren't enough hours in the day to take advantage of all the opportunities you have as a Member," she said, sitting behind a desk piled high with reports she still had to tackle that day.

"But as a Member you can do so much to cut through the nonsense. People will usually give you the straight facts when you ask for them."

Queen's Park – the power, the excitement and the beauty of it – seems to weave a spell on many of the people here. The Clerk, Roderick Lewis, Q.C., the chief permanent presiding officer of the House, still remembers the thrill he got from slipping in to hear his father, who was then a Member, speak on the floor of

The Press Gallery

The Legislative Assembly has become the focus of increasing media interest in recent years as Members tackle some of the most difficult issues of our times. Approximately fifty full-time members of the gallery represent local and national news services. Members of the Press Gallery, with whom the politicians have a sometimes cordial, sometimes wary, relationship, occupy the gallery seats behind the Speaker's chair.

Hansard

Hansard – the name goes back to Thomas Curson Hansard, first man to report the British Commons debates in 1811 – is the official record of what's said in the Chamber. It was started in Ontario as recently as 1944, and Hansard reporters now use four-track tapes and computer terminals to help them put into print within hours the words spoken in the Chamber.

The Committee System

There are two kinds of committee recognized in Canadian legislatures: Standing and Select Committees. Standing Committees, appointed at the beginning of each session, deal with bills and estimates relating to specific subject areas. For example, a bill on mine safety would be sent to the Standing Committee on Resources Development. Standing Committees do not usually employ full-time professional staff other than a clerk, but they may, with the permission of the House, hire legal counsel and researchers, usually for short periods of time.

Select Committees are appointed from time to time by the Government to carry out specific inquiries. An example would be the Select Committee on Health Care Financing or Costs which examined our whole structure of paying for medical services. Because they examine broad, complex issues, Select Committees, with the approval of the House, usually hire counsel and consultants to help them with their tasks.



the House in the 1920's. The beauty of the Chamber, he says, influenced him in the early part of his career to become a commercial artist.

When the Depression cut short his hopes of an art career, he studied law. His father, meanwhile, had become Clerk of the House, and Lewis, who had always been close to his father, joined him at the Clerk's Table in the centre of the House as his assistant.

Eventually he succeeded him and Lewis, father and son, hold the unique position of having occupied the historic Clerk's chair, brought from the Front Street Parliament Buildings, for more than 50 years between them.

Lewis, a gentle, father-figure of a man, acts as a sort of friendly family solicitor, advising the House on procedure and, with his assistants, keeping the official record in a large ledger.

"I am a traditionalist, no doubt about it," said Lewis when I spoke to him in the Clerk's lofty office, where an 1876 calendar clock makes it seem time hasn't moved.

The Pages

A touch of youthful charm is brought to the seriousness of the Chamber by the presence of the pages who sit on the steps of the Speaker's dais and run messages for Members. The pages in fact are top-scoring youngsters who are getting a unique close-hand look at how government works. Taken on a rota system from all parts of the province, they are grade seven and eight boys and girls who must have an 80 per cent school average. During their six-week stay at Queen's Park they attend school part-time in a classroom in the building. They receive an honorarium of \$10 a day, but pages from outside Toronto have to find their own accommodation.

Television in the House

The hurly-burly of debate in the Legislature has been seen on Ontario home TV screens since 1975. In that year the Members gave permission for six camera stations to be set up in the Speaker's Gallery. Usually the cameras are only there for Question Period, but special events such as the opening of Parliament and the budget speech are often televised in full.

His only minor frustration is that tradition prevents him from actually speaking in the House. "There are times when we are in the middle of a big procedural hassle when I wish I could stand up and say: 'Now if you would all sit down for a moment I will explain it to you...'" he said, smiling. But it will never happen because Lewis, traditionalist to the core, would probably be more shocked than anyone if he one day found himself getting to his feet to speak.

For the Members, who spend so much of their lives here, Queen's Park is like a second home; a complete little world on its own with hosts of quiet, unobtrusive people doing everything from changing the flowers, to preparing gourmet meals for state banquets, to watching over security. It even has its own barber, Frank Filice who has only one rule: never talk politics – it only leads to trouble.

For the Speaker Queen's Park is more than a token home – when the House is sitting he actually lives in a suite in the west wing. But Speaker Stokes opts for an

Members' Allowances and Services

An all-party commission, set up in 1972 to study the role of the private member, set the stage for a steady expansion in the services Members now share to enable them to do a better job. Each Member is allotted office space and the services of a secretary/assistant as well as funds to maintain a staffed constituency office in his or her own riding. Members get air travel and car allowances as well as mailing and telephone privileges.

The job of being a Member is considered full-time, and the annual salary at the time of writing is \$22,000 plus a non-taxable expense allowance of \$8,000.

The Director of Administration

The Speaker performs a dual role as Chief Presiding Officer and as First Administrative Officer of the Legislature. In the latter capacity he is assisted by the Director of Administration, an Officer of the House who heads the administrative offices of the Assembly and as Secretary implements the policy decisions of the Board of Internal Economy. The Director oversees the administration of all members' allowances and services and prepares the Estimates of the Office of the Assembly which are tabled in the House by the Speaker.

The Clerk

The Clerk of the House – the ancient title comes from ‘cleric’ at a time when clergymen were about the only people who could read and write – advises the House and the Speaker on procedural matters, as well as keeping the official record of votes, motions and other business in the large ledger on his table in the House.

He is assisted at the table by the First Clerk Assistant and two other assistants, and provides committee clerks to all committees of the House.



Elections

It is a statutory requirement that elections in Ontario take place within a five year period but generally an election occurs every three to four years or whenever the Government is defeated in the House and the Premier decides to go to the Lieutenant-Governor and ask that the House be dissolved. The Premier can also decide for reasons of his own to go to the people.

The party winning the largest number of seats in the House forms the Government (which sits on the Speaker's right hand in the Chamber), and the party with the second largest total forms the Official Opposition (sitting on the Speaker's immediate left).

The opposition parties collectively make up Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Food Services

The Members' Dining Room serves Members, their guests and Officers of the House. Its use has been extended, by the Speaker, to the Press Gallery, senior civil servants, others who are employed in the Legislature, and visitors. There is also a cafeteria, and catering services are available throughout the building.

The Legislative Library

The Ontario Legislative Library came into being in 1867. It is the lineal descendent of the parliamentary libraries of Upper Canada (1792-1841) and the United Province of Canada (1841-1867).

The role of the Legislative Library is to provide information, reference and research services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. It fulfils this role by selecting, acquiring, cataloguing and servicing books, periodicals, newspapers, government publications, reports, microforms and other materials in order to enable MPPs to carry out their legislative responsibilities in the most effective manner.

The Legislative Library specializes in collecting materials in political science, public administration, law, economics, history and the social sciences. It has an excellent collection of government publications from Ontario and other provinces and from the federal government. Its newspaper collection includes all Ontario dailies and virtually all Ontario weekly newspapers as well as selected newspapers from other provinces, the United States and Britain.

The Library's special services include computer-based reference service, a press clipping service, and a research service for Members.

ordinary bed rather than the uncomfortable-looking one that belonged to Sir John A. MacDonald (Canada's first Prime Minister) and beside which there is a symbolic decanter of whiskey in case Sir John comes back in the night, thirsty.

Queen's Park is also the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. Pauline McGibbon. But as no bedroom is provided in her official suite, she arrives every morning from her apartment in North Toronto, and climbs the pillared stairway at the side of the building to a discreet side door.

A calm lady whose blue eyes picked up the colour of her dress the day I interviewed her, Her Honour too

gets caught up in the emotion of the place. One of her most important functions (in addition to signing bills into law) is reading the Speech from the Throne at the start of the session announcing the Government's plans.

"Sometimes when I'm reading it, my heart is beating so loudly I wonder the people in the front row can't hear it," she said "I have to speak sternly to myself because I know there is nothing more distracting than trying to listen to someone who you know is nervous."

As the Queen's representative, Her Honour leaves the Chamber after reading the Speech, and is not allowed to return except to sign bills into law. "People should think about that. It symbolizes the power of the people," she said.

The power of the people – that about sums it up. It courses through this great Victorian building like champagne through a dowager, giving an extra sparkle, an extra meaning to what's done here. I felt it, and I think Pat did too as his hand shot up time after time to answer questions asked by the guide about Ontario's past and present.

As the tour ended he had one last question for the guide. "What's this place actually worth?" he asked.

Well Pat, originally it cost a mere \$1,300,000 to build. But I'd say it was priceless.

The Lieutenant-Governor

As with all Canadian provinces, the Queen is the head of state. The Lieutenant-Governor is her representative in Ontario. Appointed at the recommendation of the Federal Cabinet, the Lieutenant-Governor signs bills into law, and acts as the province's official host or hostess on ceremonial occasions as well as travelling the province as a visible reminder of our special traditions. The Lieutenant-Governor also reads the Speech from the Throne, at the start of each session of Parliament, which announces the Government's plans.



Information and Tours

Tours are conducted Monday through Friday, commencing 9:00 a.m., and continuing to 3:30 p.m. – subject to change when the Legislature is in Session. In addition to the daytime tours evening tours are conducted prior to the night Sessions of the Legislature. Commencing mid-May and continuing to Labour Day the Legislative Building is open for tours on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. It is advisable for schools and groups to book well in advance of the proposed visit. Individual visitors require no reservations. Tours are given in both English and French. For additional information please call Supervisor, Information and Tours, 965-4028.

A Legislative Glossary

Act of Parliament

A bill which has gone through all its parliamentary stages and become law. It is known in legal terms as a 'statute'.

Amendment

A proposed alteration to a motion or bill.

Appropriation

Money approved by Parliament for expenditure by a government department.

Bill

A draft Act of Parliament as presented to the House.

Backbenchers

The rows of seats in the Chamber on either side of the Speaker are referred to as 'benches'. The Premier and his Cabinet are seated on the front benches of the government side of the House and are faced across the Chamber by the Leaders and front bench spokesmen of the opposition parties. Members of the government and opposition parties seated behind their Leaders are known as 'backbenchers'.

Budget

The Provincial Budget is the annual statement of expenditures to be undertaken by the government in the coming fiscal year. It is presented to the House in the spring of each year by the Treasurer of Ontario. The Budget is comprised of a series of estimates outlining in detail the projected operating requirements for all ministries, offices and agencies falling under provincial jurisdiction. All estimates are referred either to the Committee of the Whole House or to one of the Standing Committees for detailed analysis by Members of all parties. Supplementary estimates may be presented during the course of the fiscal period to cover proposed expenditures not included in the main estimates. Once all estimates have been reviewed, the Budget is put to a vote in the House. This is the most important vote of the year for the government, and if the Budget is defeated the government is said to have lost the confidence of the House and the Legislature is dissolved.

Budget Debate

After the Budget has been introduced by the Treasurer, any Member of the Assembly may address the House at any length on any matter dealing with the budgetary policy of the government. The budget debate may extend over a number of months and culminates in a vote on the Budget prior to the end of a session.

Dissolution

The Ontario Legislature is dissolved by the Lieutenant-Governor. Dissolution may occur as a result of three cir-

cumstances: the Premier decides that, for reasons of his own, it is time to go to the people and ask for a new mandate; the government loses a vote on a significant piece of legislation and is said to have lost the confidence of the House (however, the government can bring a motion asking for the confidence of the House); or parliament has lasted the maximum duration of five years and the Lieutenant-Governor is required by law to dissolve the Legislature and issue writs for a new election.

Division

When a question has to be decided by the House the Speaker calls a vote. The question is put to the Members by the Speaker who asks in turn for the supporters to say 'aye' and the opponents to say 'nay'. On most occasions the matter is resolved by the Speaker declaring which side is in the majority on the voice vote. However, a recorded vote may be requested by any five Members, who indicate their request by standing up after the Speaker has declared the result of the voice vote. This recorded vote is called a 'division' and Members are summoned to the Chamber by the division bell. The bell continues to ring (except in those cases where the Standing Orders impose a limit) until the party whips have taken their places in the Chamber indicating that all available Members of their party are present. In the case of a prearranged vote of the House the bell will ring for a period of up to thirty minutes. The speaker then puts the question and, without further debate, each Member present in the House records his or her vote. The names of Members and their votes are entered in the Votes and Proceedings and in Hansard; the exception is a motion to adjourn either the house or a debate, in which case the numbers only are recorded.

Emergency Debates

An emergency debate may be held to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. Any Member who has given a minimum of two hours' notice to the Speaker may initiate such a debate by rising in the House before the business for the day has commenced and moving that the House suspend its scheduled business in order to debate this emergency matter. The Member is given five minutes to justify the motion. A representative from each of the other parties is then given five minutes to state the party position, after which the Speaker makes his ruling as to whether the matter qualifies as being of urgent public importance. If he rules in favour of the motion, the House votes on whether or not debate should proceed. If the motion is defeated, the House resumes the ordinary business of the day. If the motion is successful, each Member who wishes to speak to the matter is given a maximum of ten minutes to address the House. Debate continues until all Members who wish to speak have done so or until the House adjourns.

Estimates

Detailed statements of government spending for the coming financial year. All estimates have to be approved by the House before the expenditure is incurred.

Journals

A sessional record of the daily proceedings of the House. Unlike Hansard it gives no account of Members' speeches, but is the official record of the decisions, reports and action of the House.

Money Bill

Any piece of legislation which, if enacted, would require the expenditure of public funds must be sponsored by the government, with a message from the Lieutenant-Governor, and introduced into the House by a Member of the Cabinet.

Order and Notice Paper

The Order and Notice Paper is the daily agenda of a meeting of the Legislature. It contains the business to be discussed by the House, and notices of any motions to be brought which must be filed with the Clerk in advance. Each morning before a meeting of the House, the Clerk places a copy of the Order and Notice Paper for the day on the Speaker's table and on the desk of each Member. It contains a list of all government bills introduced in the House during the Session and their parliamentary status. It also lists written questions to ministers by Members and where to locate the answers once they have been provided. The Order and Notice Paper also informs Members which private Member's bills are to be debated, which bills have been referred to committee, which bills are awaiting Royal Assent and which Estimates are currently being reviewed.

Parliament

The period from the opening of the first session following a general election to the day the Legislature is dissolved by the Lieutenant-Governor, and a new election is called, is referred to as a 'parliament.'

Private Bills

Bills introduced by a local private or corporate interest which do not affect the general public.

Private Members' Bills

Public bills introduced by MPPs who are not government ministers.

Quorum

The presence of at least twenty Members of the Assembly, including the Speaker, is necessary to properly constitute a meeting of the House. If at any time during a sitting of the House the Speaker's attention is drawn to the fact that there does not appear to be a quorum of Members present, he will order that the division bell be rung for four minutes, after which he will make a count of Members in the House. If there is still not a quorum, the House is adjourned until the next scheduled sitting.

Recess

A recess is a period during a parliamentary session when the House is adjourned for a substantial length of time. The Legislature normally takes a recess in the summer months and another at Christmas time. Prior to the adjournment of the House for a recess, the Government House Leader announces the approximate date upon which the Assembly will be reconvened.

Royal Assent

After a bill has successfully received third reading in the House, it must be given Royal Assent by the Lieutenant-Governor before it becomes law. This is a ceremonial procedure repeated from time to time during the session. The Lieutenant-Governor attends in the Chamber and is asked by the Speaker on behalf of the Assembly to enact legislation which has received third reading as law. The titles of the bills receiving Royal Assent are announced by the First Clerk Assistant. The Lieutenant-Governor nods her assent and the Clerk pronounces the Royal Assent to the House on behalf of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Session

Each parliament consists of one or more sessions. There must be a session of the Legislature at least once each year so that twelve months do not elapse between sessions. Each session begins with a speech from the Throne – usually in the spring – and ends when prorogued (terminated) by the Lieutenant-Governor – usually in December after the vote on the Budget. Public bills which have not progressed through all parliamentary stages by the end of a session are said to 'die' on the Order Paper and must be reintroduced as new bills during the next session.

Whips

Whips are MPPs appointed by the party caucus to ensure that their party is adequately represented in both the House and the various Legislative Committees. The whip must make certain that members are present when a vote is called and that their votes are recorded. If a quorum is not present in the House or for a Committee meeting, the whips are responsible for locating Members and arranging for their attendance. On a less formal level, the whips act as a communication link between the backbenchers and the front bench Members of their party.

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